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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 289-2271

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

November 1987

A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

Governor Announces "STAR" Program

Governor John McKernan has announced a new training program designed to accelerate training and reemployment for the unemployed and those facing pending dislocation. The Strategic Training for Accelerated Reemployment Program (STAR) will be funded by a separate contribution under the unemployment compensation program. Maine will be only the third state to institute such a program, the Governor said.

"STAR will be a people driven program. It represents an investment in the workers of this state," the Governor said at a Tuesday morning State House news conference. "STAR's goal is to provide education and training to those who are either unemployed and on unemployment compensation, have received notice of a layoff, or will be laid off due to technological change," he said.

Continued unemployment compensation benefits and child care and transportation assistance would be available to STAR participants, the Governor said, noting that such support services are crucial to helping unemployed workers reenter the labor force.

The Governor said he would include legislation to institute STAR in his legislative package for the coming legislative session, and was hopeful that the Legislature would support it.

Statewide unemployment figures at a 30-year low mean that skilled workers are in demand by employers, the Governor said. "By applying unemployment compensation inventively to job training for the 17,000 still unemployed in Maine, we can hope to break the seemingly endless cycle of short-term jobs for a whole group of workers," he said. Maine workers need to obtain higher levels of reading, math and vocational skills to be competitive, the Governor said.

Under STAR, a training voucher worth up to $3,000 will be applied to tuition and training materials. Participants will be provided with

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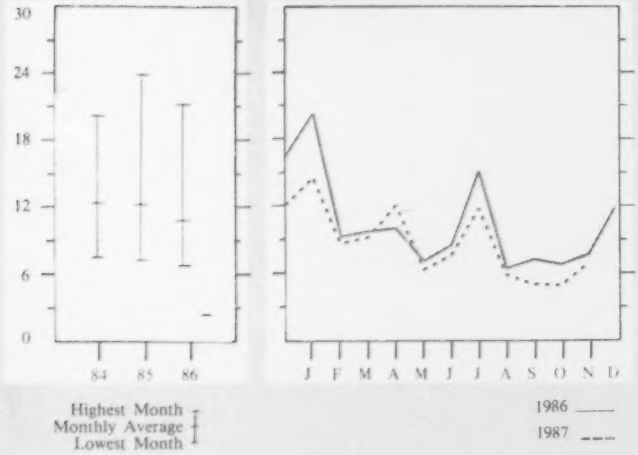
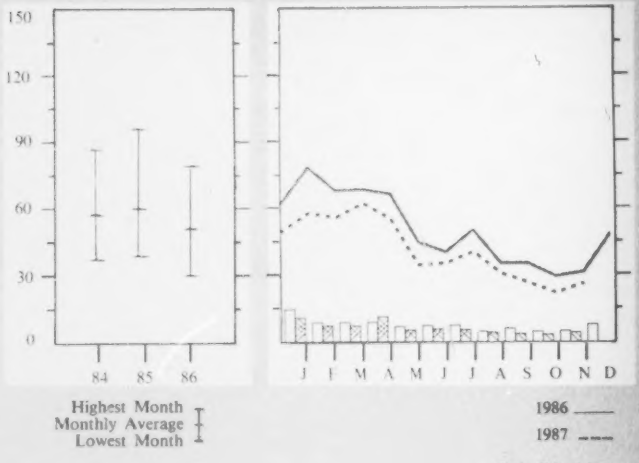
UI Initial Claims

in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed

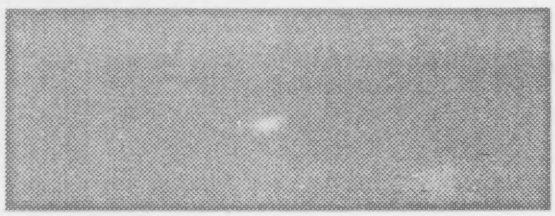
in Thousands



...continued from page 1

assessment, testing, counseling and an Individual Employment Plan that will direct them toward occupations in stable and expanding industries. Local panels will approve the occupational training programs to ensure that training is consistent with employers' needs, giving STAR a direct link between the individual's skills and local employers' needs. Employers with unique needs will be able to directly train individuals either through On-the-Job Training or Customized Occupational Training.

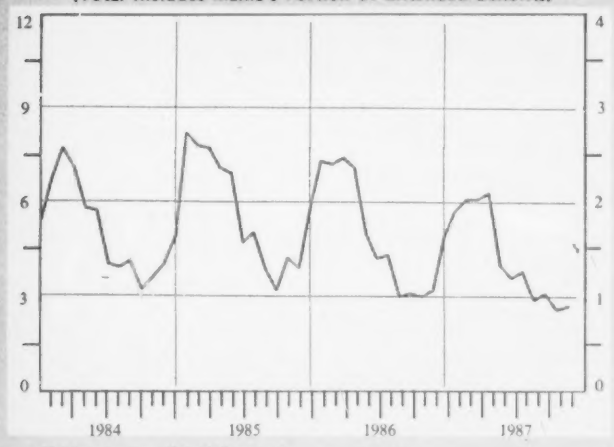
To be eligible for STAR, workers collecting unemployment insurance must register prior to the end of their eighth week of receiving benefits. Funding for the first year of STAR will be $2.9 million, and will benefit about 1,500 Maine people. "If Maine's economy continues to prosper, it is anticipated that, in 1989, the STAR program will have nearly $6 million and be serving over 3,000 Maine citizens," the Governor said.



Selected Employment Security Activities

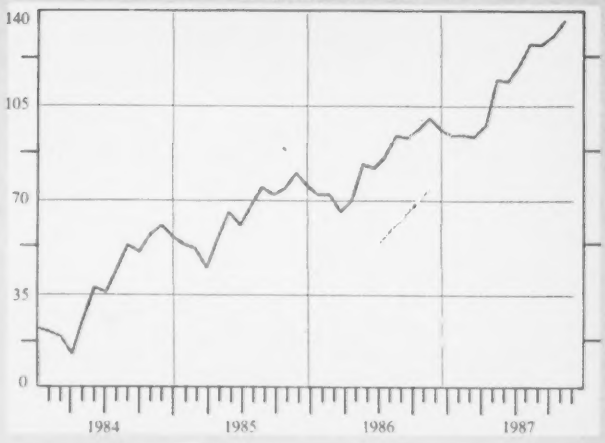
UI Benefit Payments
In Millions

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

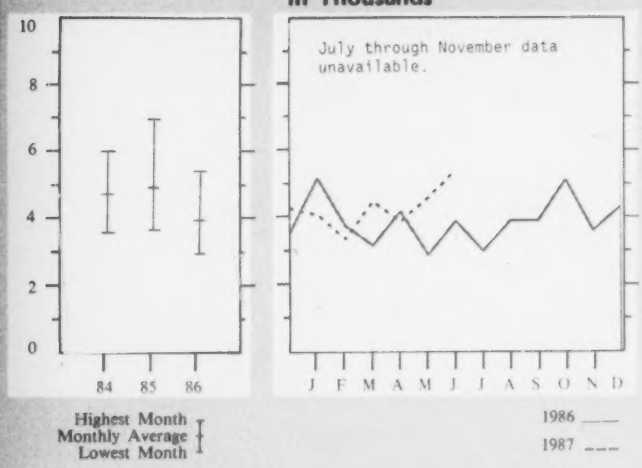
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	509.8	509.0	486.8	124.3	124.6	119.9	39.1	39.0	38.4
Total Manufacturing	104.8	104.6	104.7	15.7	15.8	17.1	9.8	9.8	9.8
Durable Goods	48.9	48.6	47.3	7.7	7.8	8.9	2.8	2.8	2.8
Lumber and Wood Products 2/	13.6	14.0	13.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.8	3.7	3.9	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Machinery, except Electrical	4.1	4.1	3.9	2.4	2.4	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	10.9	10.7	10.0	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.7	0.7	0.8
Transportation Equipment 3/	11.2	11.0	10.7	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other Durable Goods 4/	5.3	5.1	4.9	0.7	0.8	1.9	0.6	0.6	0.4
Nondurable Goods	55.9	56.0	57.4	8.0	8.0	8.2	7.0	7.0	7.0
Food and Kindred Products	7.1	7.4	8.0	1.5	1.5	1.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
Textile Mill Products	6.6	6.3	6.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.2	1.2
Apparel	3.5	3.5	4.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1
Paper and Allied Products	17.0	16.9	17.2	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Printing and Publishing	5.0	5.0	4.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	3.5	3.5	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.6	1.5	1.5
Leather and Leather Products	12.0	12.1	11.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	2.0	2.1	2.2
Footwear (except Rubber)	10.1	10.1	9.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.7	1.7	1.7
Other Leather Products	1.9	2.0	2.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.3	0.4	0.5
Other Nondurable Goods 5/	1.2	1.3	1.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	405.0	404.4	382.1	108.6	108.8	102.8	29.3	29.2	28.6
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Contract Construction	31.0	31.4	27.9	8.2	8.5	7.2	2.1	2.1	1.9
Transportation and Public Utilities	19.6	19.8	19.7	6.3	6.3	6.0	1.4	1.4	1.3
Wholesale Trade	24.9	24.7	23.4	9.0	9.0	8.7	1.9	1.9	2.0
Retail Trade	103.1	102.0	94.1	28.0	27.8	26.8	7.6	7.5	7.3
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	24.0	24.1	23.1	12.1	12.2	11.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
Services	108.0	109.5	102.1	29.6	29.8	27.6	10.1	10.1	10.0
Government	94.3	92.8	91.7	15.4	15.2	15.3	4.0	4.0	4.0
Federal	18.7	18.5	17.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local 6/	75.6	74.3	74.0	13.6	13.4	13.5	3.7	3.7	3.7
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full - and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Lumber and wood products and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland and Lewiston series. 3/ Transportation equipment and instruments are combined in the Lewiston series. 4/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 32, 39. 5/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 28, 29. 6/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

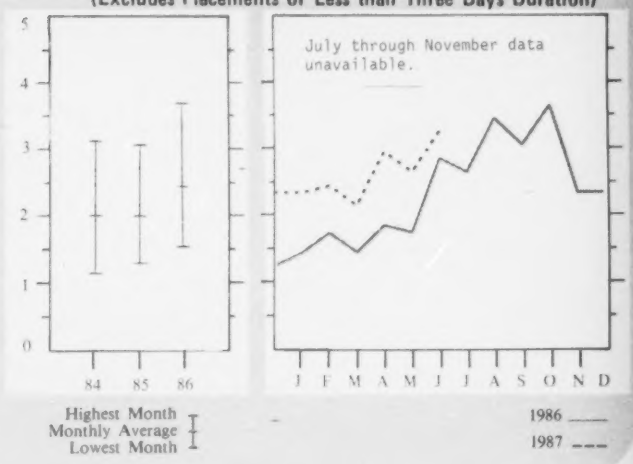
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1986	1985	1984
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$373.27	$370.40	$364.34	41.2	41.9	40.8	$9.06	$8.84	$8.93	$8.65	$8.40	$8.05
Durable Goods	361.22	357.83	347.54	42.9	42.7	40.6	8.42	8.38	8.56	8.52	8.46	8.22
Lumber and Wood Products	333.28	336.13	321.20	40.3	40.4	40.2	8.27	8.32	7.99	7.74	8.06	7.57
Primary and Fabricated Metals	401.39	368.06	363.80	45.1	42.6	41.2	8.90	8.64	8.83	8.58	8.25	7.89
Machinery, except Electrical	449.83	432.91	373.25	50.6	46.6	38.4	8.89	9.29	9.72	9.62	9.11	8.36
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	329.21	333.26	323.21	41.1	42.4	40.3	8.01	7.86	8.02	7.94	7.57	7.56
Other Durable Goods	377.94	374.82	383.72	44.1	44.2	41.8	8.57	8.48	9.18	9.41	9.50	9.51
Nondurable Goods	385.09	381.41	377.51	39.7	41.1	40.9	9.70	9.28	9.23	8.76	8.31	7.95
Food and Kindred Products	259.56	278.32	254.53	34.7	39.2	35.4	7.48	7.10	7.19	7.00	6.63	6.46
Textile Mill Products	304.58	309.00	311.18	39.3	41.2	43.1	7.75	7.50	7.22	7.04	6.64	6.13
Apparel	249.36	244.09	224.65	38.6	38.5	38.8	6.46	6.34	5.79	5.73	5.83	5.55
Paper and Allied Products	637.33	631.90	635.24	44.6	46.6	46.3	14.29	13.56	13.72	12.70	12.25	11.62
Leather and Leather Products	243.17	240.13	225.94	36.9	37.0	36.5	6.59	6.49	6.19	6.05	5.93	5.80
Other Nondurable Goods	328.55	325.48	334.55	39.3	39.5	41.1	8.36	8.24	8.14	8.00	7.51	7.11
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	389.23	385.56	375.88	43.2	42.0	39.4	9.01	9.18	9.54	9.17	8.90	8.08
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	300.80	296.46	285.48	40.0	39.9	39.0	7.52	7.43	7.32	7.19	6.78	6.58

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 1/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	267.4	269.2	248.5
Unemployed	10.4	9.0	12.5
(Percent)	3.9%	3.3%	5.0%
Resident Employed	257.0	260.2	236.0

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec
(1967=100) All Items	345.3	345.3	330.8	331.1

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.1%
Percent Change from Last December	+4.4%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+4.5%

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	601.4	610.3	563.8	580.4	592.7	539.2	21.0	17.6	24.6	3.5	2.9	4.4
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	43,200	43,400	41,000	42,000	42,100	39,100	1,200	1,300	1,900	2.8	3.0	4.6
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	41,900	41,900	40,500	40,200	40,400	38,200	1,700	1,500	2,300	4.1	3.6	5.7
Portland MSA	128,700	129,600	120,600	126,300	127,300	117,900	2,400	2,300	2,700	1.9	1.8	2.2
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	131,700	134,500	126,500	129,400	132,400	123,600	2,300	2,100	2,900	1.7	1.6	2.3
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	33,710	33,950	31,810	32,590	32,960	30,500	1,120	990	1,310	3.3	2.9	4.1
Bath-Brunswick	28,920	29,240	25,650	28,080	28,450	25,110	840	790	540	2.9	2.7	2.1
Belfast	10,880	11,480	10,490	10,310	11,000	9,780	570	480	710	5.2	4.2	6.8
Biddeford	27,150	27,660	24,970	26,530	26,930	23,810	620	730	1,160	2.3	2.6	4.6
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	13,180	14,510	11,800	12,660	14,260	11,310	520	250	490	3.9	1.7	4.2
Calais-Eastport	14,290	14,020	13,320	13,240	13,080	12,320	1,050	940	1,000	7.3	6.7	7.5
Caribou-Presque Isle	23,210	23,430	21,110	21,540	22,130	19,530	1,670	1,300	1,580	7.2	5.5	7.5
Central Penobscot	2,880	2,820	2,650	2,760	2,740	2,500	120	80	150	4.2	2.8	5.7
Dover-Foxcroft	6,690	6,560	6,730	6,390	6,320	6,300	300	240	430	4.5	3.7	6.4
Ellsworth	23,290	24,950	21,280	21,940	24,380	20,220	1,350	570	1,060	5.8	2.3	5.0
Farmington	12,270	12,170	11,940	11,670	11,630	11,250	600	540	690	4.9	4.4	5.8
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,820	5,900	5,330	5,480	5,680	4,990	340	220	340	5.8	3.7	6.4
Greenville	1,310	1,310	1,230	1,250	1,260	1,160	60	50	70	4.6	3.8	5.7
Houlton	6,120	6,100	5,710	5,760	5,910	5,400	360	190	310	5.9	3.1	5.4
Kittery-York 3/	30,300	30,920	28,240	29,970	30,680	27,900	330	240	340	1.1	0.8	1.2
Lincoln-Howland	5,330	5,260	5,280	5,120	5,080	5,000	210	180	280	3.9	3.4	5.3
Livermore Falls	4,670	4,760	4,550	4,320	4,510	4,240	350	250	310	7.5	5.3	6.8
Madawaska-Van Buren	3,740	4,020	3,640	3,460	3,670	3,280	280	350	360	7.5	8.7	9.9
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,240	4,360	4,320	4,070	4,110	4,030	170	250	290	4.0	5.7	6.7
Norway-Paris	12,110	12,270	11,320	11,710	11,900	10,670	400	370	650	3.3	3.0	5.7
Patten-Island Falls	2,460	2,530	2,480	2,340	2,400	2,290	120	130	190	4.9	5.1	7.7
Rockland	18,700	19,070	16,510	18,190	18,690	15,840	510	380	670	2.7	2.0	4.1
Rumford	8,740	8,820	8,120	8,410	8,500	7,460	330	320	660	3.8	3.6	8.1
Sanford	16,740	16,900	15,430	16,260	16,530	14,790	480	370	640	2.9	2.2	4.1
Sebago Lakes Region	12,460	13,830	11,320	12,160	13,570	11,000	300	260	320	2.4	1.9	2.8
Skowhegan	24,440	24,690	22,920	23,270	23,750	21,580	1,170	940	1,340	4.8	3.8	5.8
Southwest Penobscot	10,500	10,590	10,570	9,860	10,060	9,820	640	530	750	6.1	5.0	7.1
Waterville	23,550	23,300	23,030	22,700	22,680	21,920	850	620	1,110	3.6	2.7	4.8
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,795.8	1,768.1	n/a	1,743.7	1,710.1	n/a	52.1	58.0	n/a	2.9	3.3
Massachusetts	3,085.0	3,097.0	3,051.3	3,013.0	3,014.0	2,939.9	72.0	84.0	111.4	2.3	2.7	3.6
New Hampshire	591.3	597.9	567.4	578.0	585.4	553.5	13.3	12.5	13.9	2.2	2.1	2.4
Rhode Island	530.4	524.7	519.6	514.0	509.2	502.2	16.4	15.5	17.4	3.1	3.0	3.3
Vermont	297.0	301.8	296.8	286.8	291.1	283.5	10.2	10.7	13.3	3.4	3.5	4.5
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,928.5	6,767.0	n/a	6,736.1	6,528.4	n/a	192.4	238.6	n/a	2.8	3.5
UNITED STATES 4/	120,611	120,744	118,623	113,809	113,898	110,751	6,802	6,845	7,872	5.6	5.7	6.6

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note

n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing. Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

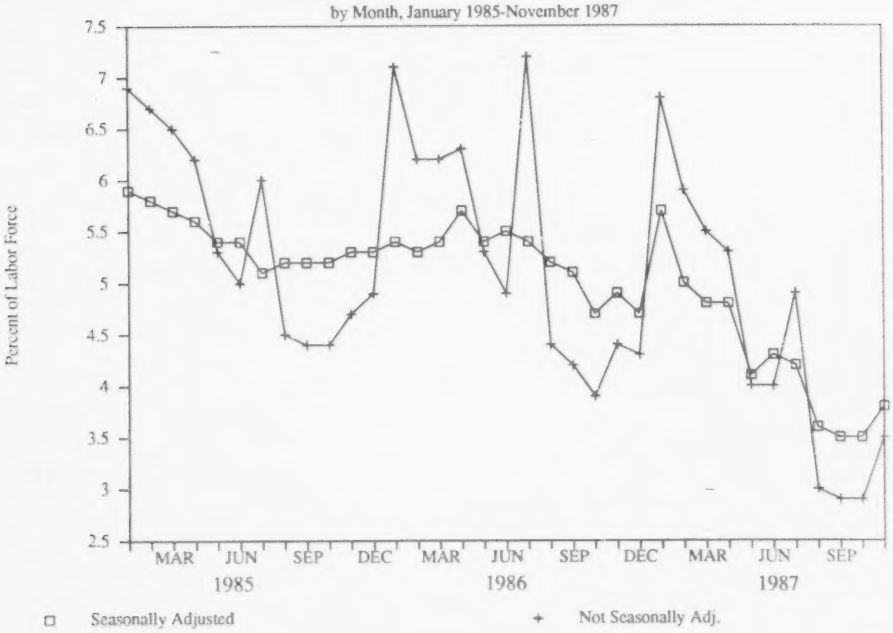
Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued-Week Claimants	4,696	3,783	7,233	479	431	734	414	382	722
Insured Unemployment Rate *	1.0	0.8	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.1	2.0

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

Unemployment Rates in Maine

by Month, January 1985-November 1987



The Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

U.S. MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAB 449

November 1987

MAINE JOB SERVICE

"For Qualified Workers Contact Your Local Bureau of Employment Security Job Service Office"

Labor Market Information Services